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Letter dated 24 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 January 2006 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Turkish side has worked hard in the past in support of your efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations. As you are aware, the Turkish Government fully and actively supported the process. The high percentage of Turkish Cypriot affirmative votes in the 24 April 2004 referendum is yet another testament to the dedication of the Turkish side to a comprehensive settlement.

History will certainly judge the party which has been responsible for the present impasse. However, we know that despite the setbacks, you remain fully engaged with this issue. Your leadership remains indispensable for the success of any effort towards a comprehensive settlement.

With this in mind, we have, in full coordination with the Turkish Cypriots, prepared a detailed action plan, which reflects our determination to move forward.

We believe that such an initiative has the potential to bring about a transitional process until a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus question is found. We hope that you would support the proposed action plan, which is not a substitute for an overall settlement but aims at paving the way for it by laying the ground.

Your efforts for the adoption of the action plan could culminate in a high-level meeting under your auspices, which would not only put the final seal on the plan, but might also enable the parties to look into the possibility of reactivating the overall settlement process. At that stage the constructive contributions of other relevant parties would also be welcome. However, what is important now is to preserve the delicate balance in the action plan and not to overload it with new elements.

I must also particularly emphasize the following point: the proposals contained in the action plan and their subsequent implementation will in no way prejudice the respective legal and political positions of the parties vis-à-vis the Cyprus issue.

Your support for this initiative will be highly appreciated.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Gül**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

ACTION PLAN ON LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS IN CYPRUS

The UN Secretary General is kindly invited to consider holding consultations with the parties concerned with a view to implementing the Action Plan, the principal elements of which are outlined herebelow:

1. Opening of the sea ports of Turkey to Greek Cypriot vessels serving the trade of goods in accordance with the EC-Turkey Customs Union.

2. Allowing Greek Cypriot air carriers to use the Turkish air space for over-flights and to land at the Turkish airports in accordance with relevant international rules and procedures.

3. Opening of the ports in North Cyprus, including Gazimagosa, Girne, and Gemikonağı to international traffic of goods, persons and services under Turkish Cypriot management.

4. Opening of Ercan airport for direct flights under the Turkish Cypriot management.

5. Special arrangements for the practical inclusion of North Cyprus, as an economic entity, into the European Union's customs union. Unhindered direct trade between both sides of the Island as well as with the outside world.

6. Participation of the Turkish Cypriot side in international sports, cultural and other social activities.

The following procedural steps can be taken for the implementation:

7. A high level meeting is to be convened no later than May/June 2006 under the auspices of the UN with the participation of Turkey, Greece, the Turkish Cypriot side and the Greek Cypriot side with a view to finalizing the draft action plan which will be implemented as an integrated whole within an agreed time frame.

8. The action plan and outcome of the meeting are to be submitted by the UNSG to the UN Security Council. The UNSG may wish to establish a mechanism to keep the implementation of the plan under review, with a view to regularly reporting any development to the Security Council.

9. The assistance, particularly to the Turkish Cypriot side, of the UN and the EU Commission will help facilitate the implementation of the proposed measures.

10. The action plan will, in no way, prejudice legal and political positions of the parties concerned. It is aimed at bringing about an environment of cooperation and mutual trust with a comprehensive settlement perspective to the Cyprus issue.

In this respect, Turkey remains committed to the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the framework of UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices and on the basis of the UNSG's settlement plan. Turkey earnestly hopes that an agreement on the comprehensive settlement will be reached in 2006.